

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 13721 261412Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9615

S E C R E T CAIRO 13721

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR EG US

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY SADAT IN RESPONSE TO OUR MESSAGE

REF: (A) CAIRO 13509, (B) STATE 130288, (C) CAIRO 13326,

- (D) STATE 127812, (E) CAIRO 13464

1. AFTER BRIEFING ME MAY 26 ON GAMASY/WEIZMAN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS REPORTED SEPTTEL, MFA UNDER SECRETARY OSAMA EL-BAZ SAID HE WISHED TO CALL MY ATTENTION TO FRONT PAGE ARTICLE APPEARING IN MAY 26 AL-AHRAM ATTRIBUTED TO MFA OFFICIAL SOURCES. ARTICLE DEALT WITH STATE DEPARTMENT DENIAL OF DAYAN REMARKS IN KNESSET MAY 24 AND CONTAINS FOLLOWING FINAL PARA WHICH EL-BAZ TRANSLATED TO ME (EMBASSY HAD ALREADY NOTED THIS ARTICLE AND IS REPORTING IT BY UNCLASSIFIED SEPTTEL). QUOTE: A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SOURCE TOLD AL-AHRAM THAT WHILE SEEKING A COMPREHENSIVE AND JUST SETTLEMENT IN WHICH EACH PARTY SHOULDERS ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITMENTS, EGYPT IS, AT SAME TIME, PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS OR PROPOSALS THAT CONTAIN SPECIFIC POINTS DEALING WITH THE ESSENCE OF THE SUBJECT SO THAT TANGIBLE PROGRESS COULD BE MADE AND THE OBSTACLES RESULTING FROM ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENT POSITION ELIMINATED. UNQUOTE.

2. EL-BAZ SAID THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE HELPFUL TO US

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 13721 261412Z

AND COULD BE CONSIDERED A FIRST RESPONSE TO A STATEMENT HE UNDERSTOOD WE HAD REQUESTED BE MADE. I RESPONDED THAT WHILE HELPFUL, A PRESS ARTICLE SOURCED TO AN OFFICIAL AT THE MFA HARDLY HAD THE IMPACT OF A STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SADAT. IN ADDITION, IT DID NOT MAKE SOME OF THE SPECIFIC POINTS WE HAD FELT DESIRABLE. EL-BAZ SAID HE RECOGNIZED MY POINTS, BUT AL-AHRAM ARTICLE COULD HELP

LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SADAT IN A FORTHCOMING INTERVIEW WITH AMERICAN JOURNALISTS. HE ENDEAVORING DETERMINE WHEN FIRST SUCH INTERVIEW WOULD TAKE PLACE.

3. COMMENT: I DO NOT BELIEVE EL-BAZ WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN OUR MESSAGE TO SADAT, AND WAS PROBABLY INSTRUCTED TO POINT THIS ARTICLE OUT TO ME WITHOUT BEING FILLED IN ON THE DETAILS. IN VIEW OF SENSITIVITY OF OUR MESSAGE I DECIDED NOT TO BRIEF HIM.

4. WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS RICHARD RYAN OF DETROIT NEWS AND LAWRENCE O'ROARK OF PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN HAVE REQUESTED INTERVIEW WITH SADAT FOR MAY 27. I AM ENDEAVORING TO REACH VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK TO LET HIM KNOW THAT AL-AHRAM ARTICLE CLEARLY DOES NOT MEET PRESIDENT CARTER'S REQUEST AND TO URGE THAT SADAT FIND OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REQUESTED STATEMENT IF HE IN FACT MEETS WITH THESE JOURNALISTS. IF NOT, TODAY'S PRESS STATES SADAT WILL HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 30 WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, WHICH SHOULD BE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE STATEMENT. MATTHEWS

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